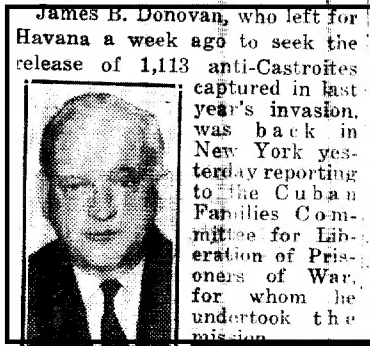


Page 2 J.B. Donovan
2 Feb 61

Donovan Back To Report on Cuba Mission

CPYRIGHT



James B.
Donovan

James B. Donovan, who left for Havana a week ago to seek the release of 1,113 anti-Castroites captured in last year's invasion, was back in New York yesterday reporting to the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War, for whom he undertook the mission.

The attorney disclosed that he returned Monday to discuss certain specific questions with the committee, and he declared he felt "very optimistic."

He said he had met with Fidel Castro several times in sessions lasting "many hours." He did not disclose the points under discussion with the committee. Some time back, Castro set a ransom of \$58 million on his prisoners.

Donovan, at his 161 William St. office, declined comment on the reported presence of thousands of Russian troops and technicians in Cuba. He said he wanted to do nothing that might endanger his mission for the committee, which he is handling without fee.

He also sidestepped a question about his possible selection as Democratic candidate for the U. S. Senate this fall.

"I am completely wrapped up in what I am doing," he said.

"I will return to Havana as soon as the questions we are discussing are cleared up."

Earlier this year Donovan arranged the release of U-2 flier Francis Gary Powers in exchange for Russian spy Rudolf Abel.

CPYRIGHT

CPYRIGHT